

What is Claimed:

1 1. A collection device for use with a testing system, said device
2 comprising:

3 a central chamber defining an open volume;

4 a trough defining an open volume, smaller than said open volume of
5 said central chamber, said trough being positioned adjacent said central chamber;

6 an interior pour spout positioned for flow of a sample from said
7 central chamber into said trough; and

8 an exterior pour spout positioned for flow of a sample from said
9 trough and out from said device;

10 wherein said central chamber is adapted to hold a sample, said trough
11 is adapted to receive a controlled volume of the sample as the sample is poured from
12 said device through said interior pour spout and said exterior pour spout, and said
13 trough is configured to receive a portion of a test kit for submersion in said
14 controlled volume of the sample.

1 2. A collection device according to claim 1, wherein a surface of
2 said trough includes at least one aperture positioned to allow excess sample stored in
3 said trough to flow into said central chamber when said collection device is placed
4 in an upright position after pouring.

1 3. A collection device according to claim 1, further including an
2 engagement mechanism configured to hold a test kit in said trough.

1 4. A collection device according to claim 3, wherein said
2 engagement mechanism includes locating fingers configured to engage the test kit.

1 5. A collection device according to claim 4, wherein said trough
2 holds a predetermined volume sample when the test kit is inserted into said trough.

1 6. A collection device according to claim 5, wherein said
2 predetermined volume is in a range of 1000 microliters to 2000 microliters.

1 7. A collection device according to claim 1, wherein said central
2 chamber has an asymmetrical cross-sectional shape.

1 8. A collection device according to claim 7, wherein said central
2 chamber defines a "D" shaped cross-section.

1 9. A collection device according to claim 1, further comprising a
2 cup defining said central chamber and a lid configured to at least partially cover said
3 central chamber.

1 10. A collection device according to claim 9, wherein said trough is
2 formed in said cup.

1 11. A collection device according to claim 10, said trough being
2 formed on an exterior surface of a side surface of said central chamber.

1 12. A collection device according to claim 9, wherein said trough is
2 formed in said lid.

1 13. A collection device according to claim 12, said interior pour
2 spout comprising an aperture defined in said lid to permit the flow of sample from
3 said central chamber of said cup into said trough of said lid.

1 14. A collection device according to claim 13, wherein said
2 aperture defined in said lid comprises a slot.

1 15. A collection device according to claim 12, wherein said trough
2 comprises a reservoir configured to hold a predetermined volume of sample when
3 the test kit is inserted into said trough.

1 16. A collection device according to claim 15, wherein said
2 reservoir is configured to receive a portion of the test kit for submersion in said
3 predetermined volume of sample.

1 17. A collection device according to claim 12, wherein said trough
2 comprises a base surface, said base surface defining a reservoir configured to hold a
3 predetermined volume of sample when the test kit is inserted into said trough.

1 18. A collection device according to claim 17, said base surface of
2 said trough further defining at least one aperture positioned to allow excess sample
3 stored in said trough to flow into said central chamber when said collection device is
4 placed in an upright position after pouring.

5 19. A collection device according to claim 12, wherein said trough
6 comprises a side surface defining a channel positioned to guide a test kit as it is
7 inserted into said trough.

1 20. A method for testing a sample using a test kit, said method
2 comprising the steps:

3 (a) providing a collection device having a central chamber, a
4 trough positioned adjacent the central chamber and configured to receive a portion
5 of the test kit, an interior pour spout positioned between the central chamber and the
6 trough, and an exterior pour spout;

7 (b) introducing a sample into the central chamber;

8 (c) pouring sample from the collection device through the interior
9 and exterior pour spouts, thereby introducing a controlled volume of the sample into
10 the trough; and

11 (d) inserting the test kit into the trough, thereby submerging a
12 portion of the test kit in the controlled volume of the sample.

1 21. A method according to claim 20, wherein said collection device
2 includes a lid and a cup and the trough is formed in the lid, said method further
3 comprising the steps of attaching the lid to the cup and inserting the test kit into the
4 trough in the lid.